

Message Text

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TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

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CODEL KENNEDY

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MAY 27

QTE:

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DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M.)

SUBJ: CODEL KENNEDY

REF : JIDDA 3709

1. DURING SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA MAY 21-24
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED NUMEROUS STORIES ABOUT HIS ARRIVAL,
DEPARTURE AND CALLS ON KING KHALID AND OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS.
FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN INTERVIEW BY THE SPA WITH THE
SENATOR WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MAY 23 AND APPEARED IN AL-RIYADH
DAILY ON MAY 24. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

Q: WAHHT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF YOUR TALKS WITH
KING KHALID, PRINCE FAHD AND THE SAUDI OFFICIALS, AND WHAT WERE
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THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS OF YOUR DISCUSSION?

A: LET ME SAY IT WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEMBER OF THE U.S. SENATE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH SAUDI LEADERS. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY WHICH THE KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY HAD BESTOWED ON ME AND MY FAMILY. MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KING WERE FRANK AND OUR EXCHANGE OF OPINION HAS COVERED DIFFERENT SUBJECTS RELATED TO JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE KINGDOM AND OTHER ISSUES. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE HONESTY AND SINCERITY OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM I HAVE MET, AND BY THEIR INTEREST IN THE PERMANENCE OF GOOD HISTORICAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., BESIDES THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF PEACE IN THE AREA.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU ENVISION THE CONTRIBUTION OF U.S. EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SAUDI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND WHAT IMPLICATIONS WOULD THIS HAVE ON FOSTERING OF TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS?

A: I BELIEVE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD WELCOME THE CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO HELP THE SAUDI PEOPLE IN THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THIS EARLIER IN THE SENATE, AND BEING A MEMBER THEREOF, I WOULD WELCOME ANY INITIATIVE BY U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD WELCOME THE SETTING OF THE STAGE FOR ANY POTENTIAL CHANCE FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW HOW. I THINK THIS IS VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM AND ALSO FOR THE U.S.

Q: MR. SCHLESINGER A FEW DAYS AGO DECLARED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT ADOPT MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN CASE OF A NEW OIL EMBARGO. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THIS STATEMENT REFLECT U.S. OFFICIAL POLICY VIEWS?

A: LET ME EXPRESS MY OWN IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL WAS ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. AT AN EARLIER DATE THE SECRETARY OF STATE GAVE SIMILAR REMARKS. AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID TO THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS WHOM I REPRESENT. WHENEVER I WAS ASKED ABOUT THE DECISION,
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I USED TO SAY THAT WHAT WE OUGHT TO REALIZE, WHETHER WE ACCEPT IT OR NOT, IS THAT OIL BELONGS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND TO COUNTRIES IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. IT IS THEIR OIL AND WE HAVE NO RIGHT NOR ANY REASON TO CONSIDER TAKING MILITARY ACTION. AS I HAVE TOLD THIS TO THE MASSES WHOM I REPRESENT, I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RELATE MY VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT TO OUR FRIENDS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT MY VIEWS REPRESENT, TO AN EXTENT, THE VIEWS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY

OF THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT I AM NOT GOING TO BE THE MEMBER OF THE SENATE WHO WOULD SEND OUT THE RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO FIGHT IN A MILITARY VENTURE LIKE THIS.

Q: IN THIS CASE HOW WOULD YOU RECONCILE SUCH STATEMENTS AND THE U.S. ANNOUNCED POLICY OF MAKING EVERY EFFORT TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A: AS I SAID BEFORE, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A PERSON TO CRITICIZE HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WHILE HE IS TRAVELING ABROAD. WHAT I AM SAYING HERE IN SAUDI ARABIA IS WHAT I SAID IN THE U.S., BUT TO THOSE WHOM I REPRESENT I FURTHER SAID THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE FUTILE AND WOULD NOT BRING US ANY CLOSER TO PEACE.

Q: THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL CONVICTION IN THE ARAB WORLD THAT THE U.S. IS ABLE TO FIND A JUST AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. HOW TRUE IS THIS CONVICTION AND WHAT IN YOUR OPINION SHOULD BE THE ROLE THE U.S. SHOULD PLAY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT?

A: I PERSONALLY DON'T BELIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE IMPOSED BY ANY FOREIGN POWER, INCLUDING THE SUPERPOWERS. PEACE WILL BE FOUND IF ALL THE VARIOUS INTERESTS IN THE AREA ARE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. AND I THINK THIS IS QUITE UNDERSTOOD BY THE COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. PERSONALLY I FEEL PEACE COULD BE REACHED EVENTUALLY BY ALL THE CONCERNED PARTIES, AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE THAT PAVES THE WAY FOR PEACE. I AM VERY HOPEFUL THAT HER INFLUENCE COULD BE USED TO ACCELERATE THE BRINGING ABOUT OF THAT JUST PEACE SO DESIRED BY THE AREA'S INHABITANTS. THIS IS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ROLE THE U.S. CAN ASSUME.

Q: THE U.S. PRESS SAYS YOU ARE GOING TO RUN IN THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1976, THOUGH YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SAID YOU ARE NOT. HOW WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS, AND WHAT ARE YOUR STIPULATIONS REGARDING YOUR CANDIDACY?

A: AS I'VE POINTED OUT IN THE STATES AND TO MY VOTERS, I SHALL NOT RUN IN THAT ELECTION. I REALIZE THAT CONDITIONS MIGHT MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND. I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE U.S. SENATE, WHICH IS SO BENEFICIAL IN THE FIELDS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. I HOPE TO BE A CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE WITHIN MY OWN PARTY SO THAT MY PARTY'S PLATFORM FOR THE 1976 ELECTIONS MAY FOCUS ON THE PEOPLES' REQUIREMENTS IN THE U.S., BESIDES A PROGRAM FOR WORLD PEACE.

Q: DON'T YOU THINK THAT ALMOST 30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE AIMED AT PERSONIFYING THE PALESTINIAN IDENTITY THROUGH THE PLO, FOR EXAMPLE IN PARTICULAR, QUALIFIES THAT ORGANIZATION TO PARTAKE OF ANY PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT IS HIGH TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO?

A: I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE TO RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT PALESTINIAN INTERESTS ARE SOMETHING THAT ALL CONCERNED PARTIES RECOGNIZE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT ULTIMATELY IS HOW THESE INTERESTS COULD REFLECT AND MATERIALIZE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEST MEANS TO ASSURE THAT THEIR INTERESTS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED AND THEIR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN SECURED.
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